

Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Giving Thanks

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Here in the United States, we set aside one day a year as a special time for "Thanksgiving," a good and godly tradition. However, in the Bible we read that giving of thanks should be much more than just an annual holiday. Rather, it should be a daily, moment-by-moment lifestyle. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thess. 5:18). That can be a bit challenging as we encounter the trials of daily life in a broken world, but still, gratitude is an attitude which pleases God – and it changes us in the process.

In Romans 1, Paul links the lack of thanksgiving, with some pretty heavy stuff – darkened hearts, uncleanness, vile affections, reprobate minds. And where did these start? Paul links them to refusal to acknowledge God as **Creator, glorify Him as God, and be thankful.** Unfortunately, our modern society reflects the same kind of depravity and foolishness as Paul observed in his day. Read Romans 1 and then look at the evening news to see the similarities. But, you might ask, how is lack of thankfulness related to all this depravity and foolishness? What's the connection?

People who are truly thankful recognize their place in the universe. They realize that they are created beings – and that their Creator is so much greater than they are. They know that they have brought nothing into this world and can take nothing

out. They know that they are not in control. They know that each breath – each heartbeat – is a gift from their Maker, and that they don't really "own" even one molecule in their body. They recognize their own neediness and know that they are dependent upon their Creator for every good thing – air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat. They also recognize their spiritual need, weakness and depravity – they know they have "missed the mark" over and over again – and that they deserve wrath, not favor.

So how can we develop a thankful heart? First, we need to recognize that "there is a God, and we are not Him." We need to humble ourselves and recognize our own neediness. Beyond that, we somehow need to grasp the greatness and goodness of God – to wonder at His awesome love and matchless grace and be in awe of His desire and ability to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

We at AOI have so much for which to be thankful! God has provided all our needs, deepened us in our personal walks with Him, brought us into contact with so many of His people, shown us so much of His beautiful creation, and given us so many open doors of ministry. We are truly grateful.

We encourage you during this season of celebration to ponder the greatness of our Creator – Who not

only cares for our physical needs, but also gave Himself on our behalf, that we might spend eternity with Him, in Whose presence is "fullness of joy" and "pleasures for ever more" (Psalm 16:11). "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Cor 4:17-18). T&B

Thank You

for supporting

Alpha Omega Institute

this year.

May you have a

blessed Thanksgiving

and Christ-centered

Christmas season.



Discover Creation DVD Series

We are excited to announce that we have just completed our 12-part Discover Creation DVD Series featuring Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, Dr. Dan Korow and Richard Stepanek.

This highly anticipated series clearly refutes evolution and offers solid scientific and Biblical evidence for creation! It is abundantly illustrated throughout with high-quality graphics.

When you consider that "Evolution is the number one reason young people give for rejecting the Gospel" (youth evangelist Mark Cahill), it is clear that this is a vital tool that can help you fortify your family and church with the truth of creation. Those who have already viewed the programs are excited about the potential outreach of this series.

This series is intended for use in Sunday Schools, youth groups, home fellowships, Christian schools, homeschools, camps, or individual home use, and is appropriate for middle school through adult. The 30-35 minute sessions provide important time



for discussion. Student study guides and teacher materials supplementing the DVDs are currently being written. (Call for availability.)

DVD 1

- **Creation or Evolution?**
– A Battle of Beliefs (*D&MJ Nutting*)

- **Fossils and Cavemen**
– What's the Evidence?
(*D. Nutting*)

DVD 2

- **So-Called Proofs of Evolution**
– Can You Trust the Textbooks?
(*D. Korow*)

- **Grand Design or Blind Chance?**
– Amazing Evidence from Nature (*D. Nutting*)

DVD 3

- **It's About Time!**
– Dating Methods and the Age of the Earth (*D. Nutting*)
- **A Flood of Evidence** – Lots of Water or Lots of Time? (*D. Nutting*)

DVD 4

- **Evolution and John 3:16**
– How Darwinism Affects the Gospel of Christ (*D. Korow*)
- **The Amazing Human Body**
– Astounding Evidence for a Loving Creator (*D. Korow*)

DVD 5

- **Dinosaurs, Dragons, & Man**
– Solving the Great Dinosaur Mystery (*R. Stepanek*)
- **Archaeology, Science, & Scripture**
– Affirming the Reliability of the Word of God (*R. Stepanek*)

DVD 6

- **The Bible, Science, and Earth History**
– God's Word and God's World Agree! (*MJ Nutting*)
- **Stand Firm!**
– No Need to Compromise!
(*D. & MJ Nutting*)

Special introductory price through 5-1-07: **\$15** each individual DVD of 2 sessions or **\$50** for all 6 DVDs (12 sessions!). Shipping incl. For more information



see the enclosed flyer or visit our web site at www.DiscoverCreation.org.

You Can Help Us

spread the word about this series by giving fliers to friends, pastors and youth workers. Tell us how many you need. **T&B**

Corrections...

Editorial Staff

In last issue's article entitled: "Infant Reflexes: Evolved or Designed?," the 23rd line in the second column should read "cerebro-spinal" fluid rather than "amniotic" fluid. This correction was overlooked in the process of going to print. We apologize for the mistake.

A question was also raised regarding the statement, "Urination empties the bladder of amniotic fluid..." (3rd

column, 5th line) Should "urine" be used in this case, instead of "amniotic fluid?"

Dr. Natalie Liesman offered the following response: "... the baby does urinate in utero, but I would have to argue that it is not the same as our "urine" as far as getting rid of things the body doesn't need. It is mostly water since toxins and waste are transferred back to the mother's blood supply at the placenta since the kidneys are still learning their function as the baby grows. So while the

consumed amniotic fluid has been processed through the baby's immature digestive tract into the blood stream, and filtered out by the kidneys, it is still closer to the original amniotic fluid than to what we know as actual urine. Otherwise, it would likely cause some toxic problems for the baby.

In light of these things, I really do prefer the terminology that amniotic fluid (or perhaps water) is urinated back out by the baby, but I can definitely understand why my choice of words caused some confusion. **T&B**

Intelligent Design or Blind Chance? It's a Battle of Worldviews!

by Dave Nutting

Dr. Scott Todd says, "Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic" (Correspondence to Nature, September 30, 1999).

So much for science as a "search for truth!" This statement clearly reflects the worldview of Naturalism which teaches that "reality is composed solely of matter and that all phenomena can be explained in terms of natural causes . . ." (David Noebel, Understanding the Times, Revised 2nd Ed, p. 101).

But wait! Who said that all scientific explanations have to be naturalistic? Traditionally, science was defined as: "systematized knowledge derived from observation, study, and experimentation." However, in recent years, science has been re-defined by many to include only

naturalistic explanations of physical phenomenon -- a clear expression of the worldview of naturalism.

Whoever makes the definition controls the classroom. With the "new" definition, only naturalistic evolution can be defined as science. Intelligent design is classified "religion" and banned from the classroom since it implies a designer. Sneaky trick, isn't it?

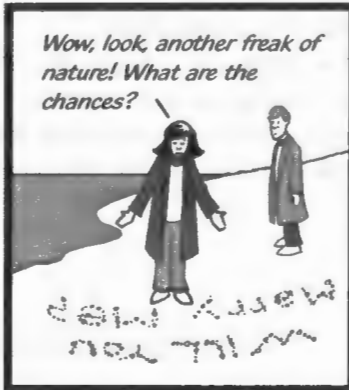
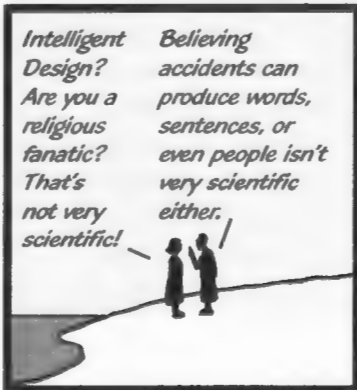
This explains the uproar when state school boards tried to remove the words "only naturalistic" from state science standards. It's not really a battle over science but of worldviews.

On the surface, this "naturalistic" definition of science seems OK. After all, isn't the goal of science to understand the physical properties at work in this natural world? But look a little deeper. What if there really is no "natural" explanation of something? What if there really is a supernatural

realm? A more accurate "scientific" interpretation of the data should include the proposal of an intelligent designer if the data seems to point that direction.

Consider arrowheads. Experience and observation tell us that rocks do not "naturally" take that shape with precise symmetry and obvious chip marks. Similarly, observing a pattern of seashells on a beach in the form of "Heather, I love you," would obviously lead one to conclude the presence of an intelligent author. Such intuitive conclusions are based on observation, experience, logical inference, and on an understanding of how things "naturally" respond to outside forces. We can recognize patterns which are "imposed" unnaturally upon natural materials.

Although we might seek a natural explanation, we would miss the mark. The key point is we should not limit our search to only naturalistic causes. This approach makes for better science—that is if we desire the truth more than our worldview! **T&B**



A Note of Thanksgiving

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Please notice the beautiful color flier announcing the completion of AOI's Discover Creation DVD series. This

has been made possible because a group of faithful supporters took on the DVD project as a special project. Some have also contributed extra for the initial advertising. They saw the need to complete and get this series into the hands of many people and churches to achieve maximum impact.

We at AOI are thankful not

only for these individuals, but for all of you who see the importance of helping youth and adults Discover Creation and stand firmly on the truth of God's Word. Thank you, each and every one, who has contributed to the DVD project, to the support of specific staff members, or to the overall creation ministry of AOI! You have all had a part in the completion of the DVD series and in the overall creation ministry. You are much appreciated!

We wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season. **T&B**

New Direction for the Korows

Many of you have enjoyed Dr. Dan Korow's teaching at seminars, camps, and conferences. However, increasing difficulty in travel due to serious back problems has led him to explore other options. Recently he took an opportunity to teach science classes locally to homeschoolers through a special pilot program. This will utilize Dan's exceptional teaching abilities and bless many young people. We wish Dan and Andrea the best in their new endeavor and thank them for serving the Lord with AOI these past seven years. Please pray for them and that Dan's back would be healed. **T&B**

Mark your calendar for a 2007 Creation Mountain Adventure!

Play and learn in the Colorado Rockies!



Family Snow/Ski Adventure
Feb. 25 – Mar. 2 Ski Wolf Creek Pass, play in the snow, and soak in the world-famous Pagosa Hot Springs.

Twin Peaks Family Mountain Adventure
July 1– 6 Fossil dig, geology and dinosaur tours, fishing, archery, commando, hikes, plant walks, and fabulous scenery!



Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures
July 29 – Aug. 3 • Aug. 5 – 10

Ride horses, take a 4-wheel drive trip, fish, rock climb, rappel, mountain bike, white-water raft, & enjoy world-class accommodations in the majestic San Juan mountains.



Call today for details!

Schedule: This winter/spring, AOI speakers are scheduled to be in OR, WA, TX, AZ, and NM. There are still a few openings. If you wish to schedule an event, call 970-523-9943 ASAP.

Reminder: Creation Training Week

One of the visions of AOI is to train an army of people to be creation resource people in their own churches and communities. For those of you who wish to teach creation, please contact us to let us know of your interest in a training session. The next session is March 5-10, 2007, in Grand Junction, CO. Write/call using the info below or E-mail us at AOI@DiscoverCreation.org.

ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

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